

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Page 1, lines 15-24

This application is related to (1) copending, commonly assigned US patent application Serial No. 10/410,313, filed April 7, 2003 (Docket 14135), (2) PCT application PCT/US 04/10234, filed April 2, 2004, by Eksigent Technologies LLC, claiming priority from Serial No. 10/410,313 (Docket 14135-1 PCT), (3) copending, commonly assigned United States Provisional Application No. 60/559,383 filed April 2, 2004, by Arnold and entitled Microconnector (Docket 14986), and (4) the copending, commonly assigned ~~application~~ U.S. Patent 7,575,722 filed contemporaneously with this application by Arnold and entitled ~~Improved~~ Microfluidic Device (Docket 15034-1). The disclosure of each of the above-identified applications is incorporated herein by reference.

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The clearance between the elongate component and the SEP conduit must be sufficient to permit the elongate component to enter the conduit. As a result, there is a volume of annular cross section (defined by the outside of the elongate component and the inside of the SEP conduit) between the liquid-tight seal and the end of the elongate component. Under some circumstances, this annular volume can be a dead volume which has adverse effects. The Docket 15034, corresponding to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/559,383 and 15034-1, corresponding to U.S. Patent 7,575,722 ~~applications~~, incorporated by reference herein, describe how these adverse effects can be reduced by providing a drain conduit from the dead volume.

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Junctions according to the invention can be used in a wide variety of microfluidic devices. The fluid flowing through the microfluidic device can be of any kind, and may for

example be a gas or a liquid (the term "liquid" being used to include emulsions and gels), particularly liquids having analytes dissolved therein or having particles comprising analytes dispersed therein. Devices of particular interest are the devices for examining liquid samples which are described in the Docket 15034, corresponding to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/559,383 and 15034-1, corresponding to U.S. Patent 7,575,722 ~~PCT-applications~~ incorporated by reference herein.

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In the conduit 261. Drain conduit 271 is connected to the outer end section of the annular volume at the entrance end of the conduit 261, and thus prevents it from acting as a dead volume which would have an adverse effect on analysis of an analytical sample passing through the device, as more fully described and claimed in copending commonly assigned Provisional Application No. 60/559,383 (Docket 15034) and the copending commonly assigned application filed contemporaneously with this application by Arnold and entitled ~~Improved~~ Microfluidic Device (Docket 15034-1), which is now U.S. Patent 7,575,722, both incorporated by reference herein. Drain conduit 271 is connected to outlet 282